

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

This is a key question. I did not even have a TV before PVR's became available. I am rarely home when shows of interest to me are aired. If I cannot record DTV on a PVR, I will rarely watch TV, if I watch at all. I don't understand how that would benefit broadcasters. I know it won't benefit me as a consumer.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I only recently purchased by PVR and would not be happy if it became obsolete soon.

Other Comments:

I am a strong proponent of copyright protection. I believe that the fair use doctrine is essential to copyright law working, especially in a time when technology is advancing so quickly. Some members of the content industry have sold non-standard DVD's that do not play on some computers. Such errors lead me to believe that any scheme the industry proposes must be analyzed and tested extensively by people outside that industry: independent testing labs and consumer electronics and computer equipment manufacturers.